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25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

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SUBJECT Living Conditions and Morale in Estonia.

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25X1A [] Comment: Although of a rather general nature, the following data are being distributed in view of the paucity of information on this area.

1. The Soviet-sponsored propaganda campaign for "work and peace" is being conducted with vigor by the Communists but has little effect upon the bulk of the Estonian population.
2. The morale of the Estonian population is very low and their yearning for an outbreak of war between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union is stronger than ever before.
3. Life for kolkhoz farmers becomes increasingly difficult, as norms are being raised. The wages of a kolkhoz farmer depend very largely upon the size of the kolkhoz. Apart from a variable figure in rubles, the daily remuneration includes from two to five kilograms of grain, flour, or potatoes. A kolkhoz farmer also receives 0.6 hectare of land for his own use. He may keep a heifer and lambs, but in return for this privilege he must relinquish part of his remuneration.
4. In the southern area of Estonia, rumors have recently (prior to March 1952) been prevalent to the effect that prices are to rise. As a consequence, there has been a run on shops and stocks are being bought up.

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